

After the March 8, 2004 Amendment, independent claims 1, 4, 9, 12, and 16 clearly recite the use of both normal communications and the use of a plurality of logical channels. The grounds of rejection state that despite this amendment, the Furukawa reference can still be “interpreted” as anticipating the claims. However, Applicants respectfully submit that at least this feature (use of both normal communications and the use of a plurality of logical channels) is neither disclosed nor suggested by Furukawa.

As described in col. 11, lines 41-43, col. 12, lines 6-8, col. 12, lines 35-37, and col. 13, lines 17-19, etc., the channel to the network in the Furukawa device is cut off after the end of the sending of the printer status, digital copier status, or the like. As such, one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the establishment of both a plurality of logical channels and normal communication *has not been achieved*. For this reason alone, Applicants submit that the claims distinguish over Furukawa.

Further, in contrast to the Furukawa disclosure, the print system according to the present invention can respond to a plurality of requests from a plurality of devices simultaneously (e.g., reception of the print status can be done during the local copy) by adopting both a plurality of logical channels communication and normal communication, especially, at least one data flow between the host and the printer consisting of plurality of logical channels.

In this Office Action, the Examiner states that the plurality of logical channels is disclosed by Furukawa by a first data control means (citing communication controller 70 in conjunction with main controller 61 in Fig. 4) for transferring print data from the host to the printer by a plurality of logical channels. The Examiner refers to col. 6, lines 57-65, noting that the print data received by the first channel 72 from the host is transmitted to the second channel

(font memory 62) and then lastly transmitted to the third channel (print process controller 65).

Thus, the Examiner alleges that the print data is transferred from the host to the printer by a plurality of logical channels.

The Examiner also states that Furukawa discloses a second data control means (image reader controller 73 in conjunction with main controller 61) for transferring the converted print data to the printer via normal communication. The Examiner interprets the normal communication as the communication that is different from the network communication (the communication between the host and the copier).

Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned citation in the grounds of rejection of data transferred to the font memory and the print process controller is quite unlike the teaching of the plurality of logical channels, such as depicted in Figure 1 of the present application. As discussed above, these cited features of Furukawa in the grounds of rejection would not suggest the capabilities of replying to a plurality of requests from a plurality of devices simultaneously by adopting both a plurality of logical channels communication and normal communication.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Furukawa does not disclose or suggest a communication network such as the present invention for receiving/transmitting data and fails to disclose the aforementioned technical concept corresponding to the logical channels according to the present invention. Therefore, because of these technical differences between the present invention and Furukawa, Applicants kindly request that the claims be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue as quickly as possible.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Application No. 09/613,426

Attorney Docket No. Q60058

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

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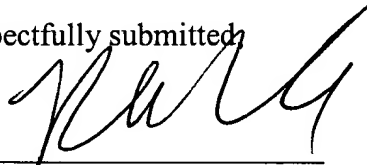
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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Respectfully submitted,



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